

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0360

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU

SUBJECT: BREAKFAST WITH PRIME MINISTER THORN

REF: LUXEMBOURG 355

1. FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL PIERRE WURTH AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER PAUL HELMINGER, WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANYING THORN TO THE BREAKFAST WITH PRESIDENT FORD ON MAY 29.

2. PIERRE WURTH'S POSITION IN GOVERNMENT IS EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER. HE HAS EXERCISED THESE FUNCTIONS FOR FOUR YEARS BUT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES INCREASED SHARPLY IN JUNE 1974 WHEN THORN BECAME PRIME MINISTER IN ADDITION TO FOREIGN MINISTER. WURTH IS ALSO POLITICAL DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY. HIS LAST TWO FOREIGN ASSIGNMENTS WERE: AMBASSADOR TO THE USSR, AND LUXEMBOURG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS. WURTH STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT HE CAN BE A GOOD "EUROPEAN" AND A PARTISAN OF THE ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP AT THE SAME TIME. HE IS AN EXCELLENT SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR US OFFICIALS, AND HE WILL HANDLE LIAISON FOR US/EC CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EMBASSY WHEN LUXEMBOURG OCCUPIES THE EC PRESIDENCY DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY-JUNE 1976. WURTH IS PERSONALLY SOMEWHAT RESERVED, AND REMAINS IN THE SHADOWS IN THORN'S PRESENCE. HOWEVER, HIS SUBSTANTIVE
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INFLUENCE ON THORN IS CONSIDERABLE, AND THORN DEFERS INCREAS-

INGLY TO WURTH'S JUDGEMENT ON POLICY MATTERS. WURTH SPEAKS
EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

3. PAUL HELMINGER. HELMINGER IS A YOUNG CAREER DIPLOMAT
WHO IN APRIL 1975 WAS RECALLED FROM GENEVA (WHERE HE WAS
LUXEMBOURG'S REPRESENTATIVE TO CSCE) TO HEAD THORN'S SMALL
PERSONAL STAFF. TEMPERAMENTALLY HE IS MUCH LIKE THORN,
WHICH HAS RESULTED IN A CLOSE AND EFFICIENT RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE TWO MEN. HELMINGER HAS ALWAYS HAD EXCELLENT
RELATIONS WITH US OFFICIALS AND SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH.
HE WILL PROBABLY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WRITING THORN'S
ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. FARKAS

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